Record and Chronicle

Maintained by

THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY

for Dispensing the Monthly Gossip to our Members with the Armed Forces

Volume January 15, 1943 No.

The hospital was as festive this Christmas Season as in years past. Each Ward had its usual Christmas Tree and Nurses on the various Wards vied with each other to see which Ward could appear most attractive for Christmas. They certainly did a good job and their efforts certainly lent much to create a pleasant Christmas atmosphere. The usual Christmas Tree donated by Mr. Henry L. Finch, a member of the Board of Managers, was erected as usual outside the hospital. We could only keep the lights on for a few hours in the evening due to dimout regulations. Mr. Lucius Wilmerding, another member of the Board, donated the other trees.

The Theater Assembly gave their party to the children in the Lecture Hall on Monday, December 21st rather than at the Astor as heretofore. The usual Christmas party given by the Reta Violet Club was held on Wednesday, December 23rd. The children from the O.P.D. were entertained at the Union League Club as usual on Thursday, December 24th. Our many good friends contributed bountiful supplies of presents for the children. The Women's Auxiliary, Social Service Department, filled Christmas stockings and saw that a stocking was at the bed of each child on Christmas morning. On Christmas Day everyone had turkey and all the fixins.

Like its Doctors, R. & C. has produced many famous Santa Clauses. Persons are still talking about the famous Santa Claus created by Tommy Thompson and Bob Bachmeyer. This year, Frank Teague, one of the Residents, was selected to take this part primarily because he had an appropriate chassis on which to build. His impersonation of this grand old man will go down in history along with those mentioned above. He not only delighted the hearts of the children, but entered into the spirit with so much enthusiasm that he took time to visit every patient in the hospital regardless of their age. Were they pleased. His makeup and impersonation was so good that even his five year old daughter did not recognize him as her Papa.

The hospital was visited by some famous people over the holidays. Marlene Dietrich stopped in on Christmas Eve afternoon to visit a patient from the Fighting French who had been injured at Tobruk. Howard Lindsay and his wife Dorothy Stickney who have the leading parts in "Life With Father" stopped in to see how Brother Hansson was carrying out the Sister Kenny treatment. They are going to broadcast over the radio for the benefit of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and they wanted to see for themselves the treatment as we carry it on at this hospital. Gladys Swarthout and Ezio Pinza of the Metropolitan Opera Company came in the other day to have their pictures taken with some of the patients under Brother Hansson's care, as they are also helping in the campaign for the National Foundation. For some reason or other, Brother Hansson has recently become camera shy and when he heard that they were here, he hid in the Hydrotherapy Department. There's a good place for a crack but we'll leave it out.

We have no announcements to make of births this month, but more about Mr. Stork in the spring.

We are very sorry to report the resignation of Mrs. Helen Hickey who has served this hospital so well in the Dietary Department for the past 17 years. Mrs. Hickey has resigned in order to go home and help care for her mother. Everyone will miss her cheery disposition and pleasing personality. Good luck, Mrs. Hickey. Miss Mary Tuppen is taking her place.

Miss Annie Brown had an unfortunate accident. She fell and received a mean fracture of her right arm. After a week, she is back in the Clinic with her arm in a sling. How can a person with such a pleasant disposition be so tough?

We have received a letter from Jack Sullivan from Ft. Wright, Washington where he is Chief of the Surgical Service. He says from what he has seen of the bomber training program during the last five months, that he can't help but be very impressed and optimistic, that everyone is very enthusiastic and all feel that the war is not going to be such a long one once we really get started. We are very glad to receive this optimistic report from Jack, for Vincent Hurley, our prognosticator extraordinary, must have been getting his dope from a chronic poorly informed pessimist. His most recent information about the duration of the war is rather gloomy.

However, here's one of Hurley's true stories which will make interesting reading. He reports that not long ago he was talking to a Major in the U. S. Army, not a medical man, and that he was bragging to the Major about our hospital; telling him what an outstanding hospital it is; that it was the first Orthopaedic hospital in the world; and that one of its many outstanding contributions was the fact that a founder of this hospital interested a Columbia Professor in coining the word "Orthopaedic". "Oh, yes," said the Major, very seriously, "I often wondered what Orthopaedic meant. Now I recall, it's the Greek for Ruptured and Crippled".

Eugene Stone writes us from the Naval Training Station, Newport, thanking us very much for the copies of the Record and Chronicle. We learn that he is in charge of the Surgery on the Post, but that unfortunately for him, all the major surgery is sent to the nearby Naval Hospital, which leaves him most of the consulting work.

Arthur Knapp writes us from the Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va., that he has been placed in charge of the Eye Department.

Pop Snyder recently got his picture in the New York Times. He was appointed a member of the Fuel Oil Ration Appeal Panel. Along with the other illustrious looking gentlemen sitting around the table, he looks as if he were presiding over a meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Nutritional Pure Food and Vitamin Corporation & Ltd. but, from all reports in the papers of the shortage of fuel oil, it would appear that he had better stick to his Arthritis Research or he will be swamped with appeals. Thank goodness we are burning coal here for it's one less headache for the Director.

Henry Burke, our electrician, was inducted into the Armed Forces and is now at Camp Lee, Va. Hope to hear more from him and that he is making things buzz.

William Phillips, who had been cook in the hospital for so many years was inducted into the Army and is now at Ft. Jackson, S.C. Our loss is the Army's gain. We have had great difficulty in replacing him. Where we used to have three

cooks, there have been weeks at a time when we have had to get along with only one. If it were not for John Strasde, our faithful first cook, who has been with us for so many years and who has worked long hours and with no days off, we would be confronted with a very difficult task in feeding our patients and staff. While on the matter of food, we are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining much of a selection of foods. We have to take that which is on the market which does not offer us a great deal of choice which necessitates much plainer menus, and no butter or coffee is served at the noonday meal. We can report to you that everyone is co-operating and not grumbling about these sacrifices which seem so little compared with those that you boys are making. We can further report to you that practically everyone here in civilian life is giving you their whole-hearted support in getting behind the war effort. The following is a report of the food situation in hospitals as put into verse by a hospital administrator (not connected with R. &.C.) which so well expresses the situation as we find it.

THE DIETICIAN'S COMPLAINT

Some little time ago,
Each day I'd always know
    That meals to plan; and never gave a thought
To whether we could buy it.
I'd merely plan the diet
    And know that what was needed could be bought.

I'd plan two weeks ahead;
But nowadays, instead,
    I'm lucky when it works out for a meal.
The prices are not right,
And few supplies in sight,
    With rationing becoming very real.

When I studied theoretics
In the school of dietetics,
    We were told to "take so much of that or this"
Heavens knows from whence to take it.
"We are short" or "we don't make it
    Anymore; I'm sorry, Miss".

But I'll find the right solution;
I will seek an institution
    Somewhere in the tropics. That's my dish.
Where I will not have to puzzle
'Bout the menus they will guzzle,
    For I'll feed them only coconuts and fish.

If a nautical instrument will help to keep the Hospital for Special Surgery on a true course through the following year, a gift which was received at Christmas Time by the Director ought to assure us of a safe voyage. A member of his office staff presented him with a magnetic compass with the following bit of verse.

When this hospital seems like a madhouse,
And what's coming next, there's no knowing,
This gadget will help to determine
Just whether you're coming or going."

One of our former Residents, J. Neill Garber, is now a Major in the Medical Corps. He is with the Hospital Unit from the University of Indiana, stationed at Camp Bowie, Texas.

Norman Higinbotham, while on a furlough, stopped in to see us during the holidays. He was sporting the silver oak leaf of a Lieutenant-Colonel, a recent promotion. Congratulations, Higgie. We all enjoyed your visit. Wish more of you fellows could stop in to say hello from time to time. Lieutenant Colonel Higinbotham is Chief of the Surgical Service at a large Station Hospital in Camp Swift, Texas, near Austin.

William F. Stanek is a Captain in the Medical Corps stationed at Camp Crowder, Missouri.

Fenwick Beekman is threatening to bring the Director into court for defamation of character for the article which appeared in last month's issue of the R. & C. The Bill of Particulars states that as the plaintiff buys his cigars wholesale, they don't cost him 5¢ as reported by the defendant, but 4¢ and that the Director ought to smoke one no matter what the after affects may be. (Editor's Note: We have been in touch with the anthropologists at the Museum of Natural History and they tell us that the Beekmans came from the Netherlands and settled in the Hudson Valley early in the 17th century. Also, the genealogists of the New York Historical Society, in looking up the Beekman Family tree, are unable to inform us just where the Scots came into the Fenwick Beekman line. Oh, well, I guess the old saying is so; "You just can't beat the Dutch.")

A very pathetic case was recently admitted to Ward 1 and was later transferred to the Psychopathic Ward in Bellevue. She was a young lady who had gone "nuts" trying to have the last word with an echo. (It looks like the Editor stuck out his neck again on this one)

Kerwin Fischer, one of our former Residents, is a Major at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. His right hand man is Ross McCarty.

Richard Schorr received his orders to report to the Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y. on Dec. 26th. He is a Lieutenant Commander, U.S.N.R.

Norman Smith, former orderly in the Plaster Room is in the Infantry, stationed at Camp Breckinridge, Ky. He writes that despite some of the inconveniences one has to put up with in the Army, Army life is not too bad, and that it is amazing how one adapts oneself so easily to Army life.

Charles Wohl, Captain in the Medical Corps, is stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., as an Orthopaedist and is working with Frank Cox, also a former Resident. Will Captain Wohl please send us the rank and address of Frank Cox so that we can put him on the mailing list to receive copies of the R. & C.

Miss Verona Hardy, Physiotherapist, resigned on December 22nd to join the Army at Camp Devens, Massachusetts, as a Second Lieutenant.

Miss Gertrude Svensson, Physiotherapist, writes from Nashville, Tenn., that she is employed at the Junior League Hospital for Crippled Children. She is Supervisor of the Sister Kenny method and has approximately 20 patients under her care. She states that she misses Dr. Hansson very much as she has no one there to run to with her problems.

Wish we had a few more glamour boys on our Staff that would make as good copy as Kristian Hansson.

Bob Bachmeyer is with the O. C. D. in Wash., D.C. He has recently been promoted and among his other duties he is making a nation-wide survey with relation to the OCD program for Emergency Base Hospitals.

Caroll Tiernan, Record Room, was married on January 6, 1943 to Corporal William J. Rigoll. She is now on leave for a brief honeymoon.

Lionel Demoruelle, one of our painting crew, was inducted into the Service and is at Camp McCain, Miss. Besides being a painter, he was also a good plasterer. He hopes to get a chance to plaster some of those Japs.

Gordon Young, Assistant to the Director, has a swell idea. He is going to train the dogs left in the care of the Information Desk to deliver packages on the floors. That certainly will help out.

Mrs. Marjey took a plane on Thanksgiving Day to visit the Captain at Fort Lewis, Washington, as he was leaving for overseas within 24 hours. She got a plane to Bismarck, N. D., and then proceeded by train to Seattle. We have heard that the Captain was at the station to meet her, looking every bit an Officer in Uncle Sam's Army. He embarked on December 7th. Mrs. Marjey visited some of the hospitals and reports that she found one filled with what are called "goldbricks", or men over 38 who have all kinds of aches and pains for no known reason. (Editor's Note: They probably heard about the fellows over 45 who were put in the "metal" draft. These fellows are supposed to have gold in their teeth, silver in their hair, and lead surrounding the caudal vertebra.) (Editor's Note: I resent that one; it's too personal.)

Here's a column contributed by Mary Rose and Ray Lewis, called:

"Gleaned from Our Records"
"These Modern Methods"

"Patient has been under the car of a private physician receiving physio."

"Because there was no improvement under conservative treatment, admission and expiration was advised."

"Child is sick, but nothing is being done yet because the family has not yet been insulted."

"Backstrapping: "Black strocking treatment recommended for low back pain."

Changes have been made in the front of the hospital. Most of the iron fence has been taken down and given to scrap. The job is not quite complete but everyone agrees that the appearance of the entrance to the hospital has been greatly enhanced. That's our contribution to armaments and we feel better because maybe we're better thought of by strangers as we don't look now like a mental institution.

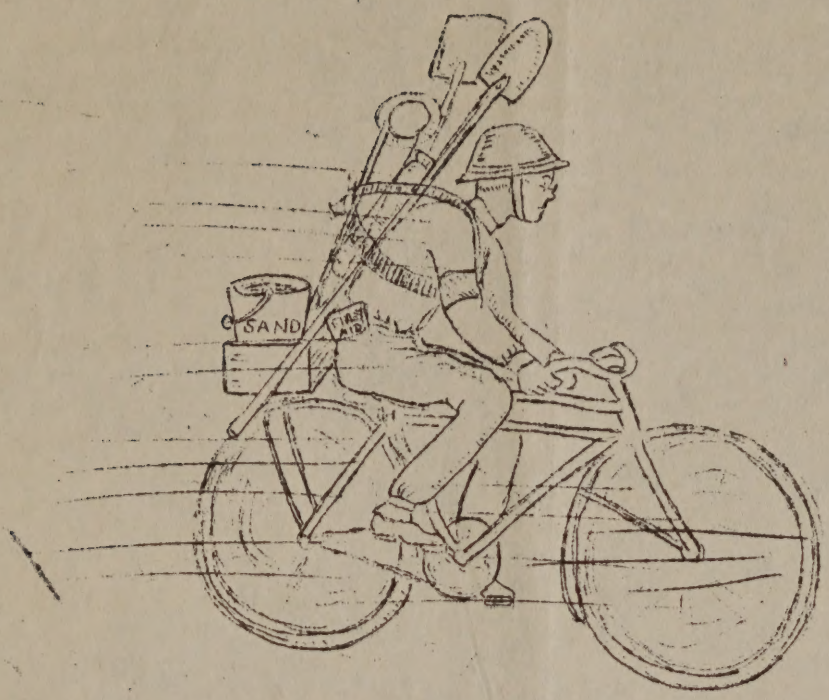
We have rented a new machine to scrub the floors to save labor which we can't get to save. It does a swell job. We did not realize they were so dirty. It does everything but talk back; scrubs, rinses, squegees and sucks up the water. A light goes on when it gets fatigued and a bell rings when the water gets too dirty. It has everything attached to it but an anti-aircraft gun. It has been nicknamed the "General Shannon", after our Superintendent of Maintenance, George Shannon.

As the R. & C. has been received with so much enthusiasm, and as it appears that you are so eager to get the news more frequently, we are going to attempt to get out an issue twice a month. Another reason for this change in policy is because we have not as yet heard from any of our members who are overseas. It is felt that possibly one of the reasons for this is that the Record and Chronicle has been a little too bulky and does not receive as prompt attention by the Post Office as it would if it did not contain so many pages. With this in mind, we are also going to use both sides of the page.

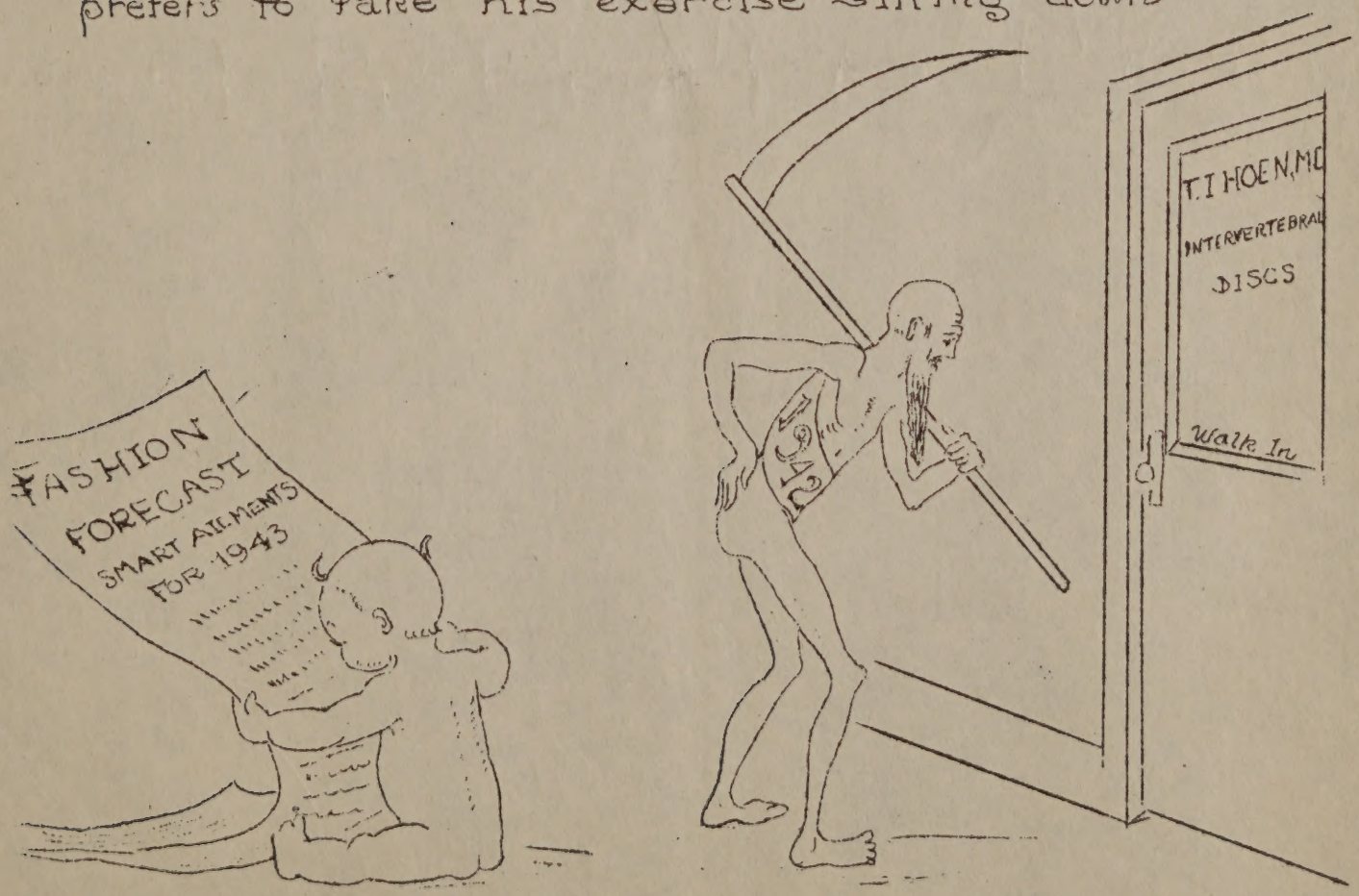
Will you who are overseas please let us know when you receive these issues.

Since everyone here at the hospital has given the Editor their wholehearted and enthusiastic assistance in supplying the news and what not, we feel that with their continued help, and news from each and every one of you, we will be able to have enough material to issue this paper bi-monthly.

Here's a thought for January: "Praise the Lord and Pass a Resolution."



Answering the Siren's Call : Dr. Raymond Lewis prefers to take his exercise sitting down



HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY !!!

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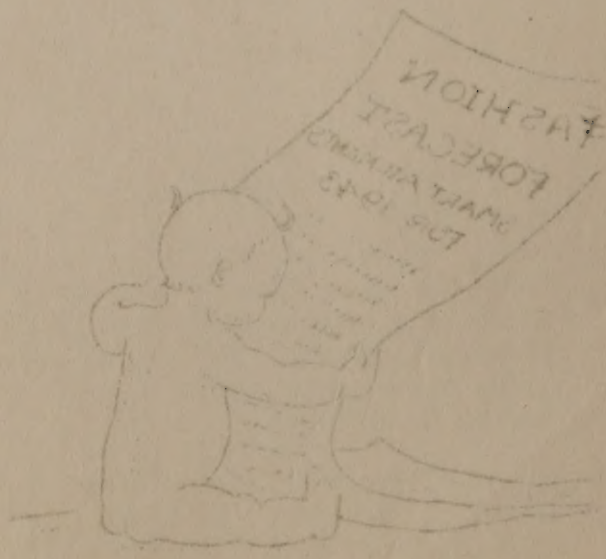

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